

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 76-96 were pending in this application when last examined by the Examiner. Claims 76-82, 85 and 92 have been cancelled. Claims 83, 86, 90, 91, and 93-96 have been amended. New dependent claims 97-110 have been added. The newly added claims are based on originally filed claims 5-8. No new matter has been added by these amendments. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the now-pending claims 83, 84, 86-91, and 93-110.

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that this is a National Stage Application of International Application No. PCT/SG2002/000190, filed on August 22, 2002. To date, Applicant has not received an acknowledgment that the Office has received a certified copy of the International Application. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the International Application (e.g. on FORM PTOL-326) or notify Applicant that the Office does not have a record of the receipt of the International Application.

Claims 76-82 and 90-96 were rejected under 35 USC § 101 as not being tied to a statutory class. In response, Applicants have cancelled claims 76-82, and re-written claims 90-96 as system claims. In light of the amendments, applicants believe that all pending claims fall within the purview of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is respectfully requested.

Claims 83 and 84 are rejected as being unpatentable over *Dong*, et al. in view of *Alon*, et al. Claims 85-89 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 83 to incorporate the limitations of previously presented claim 85. Dependencies of the remaining claims have also been adjusted. Additionally, new dependent claims 97-103 have been added to more particularly point out inventive features of the system of claim 83. In light of the above amendments, Applicants believe that claims 83, 84, 86-89, and 97-103 are allowable over the cited art, and an early indication of their allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 90-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Dong*, et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

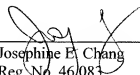
With respect to claim 92, the Examiner "interprets k to be 'the growth rate threshold 2.5.'" (See, Office action p. 12, last par.). Applicants respectfully disagree. As stated in *Dong*, "EPs are itemsets whose growth rates – the ratios of [the two] supports – are larger than a given threshold . . ." (See, p. 43, § 1, Introduction). In this instance, the threshold values may be useful in determining the boundary conditions to be used in establishing EPs. As specifically defined in claim 92, "a fixed number, k , of emerging patterns extracted from said training data, wherein k is substantially less than a total number of emerging patterns in the plurality of emerging patterns," k is a number of "emerging patterns," not a threshold value. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion anywhere in either the *Dong* or *Alon* references to apply the limitations as claimed to an emerging pattern data set.

Applicants have amended independent claim 90 to include the limitations of claim 92. Claim 92 has been canceled. In light of the arguments presented above, Applicants believe that present claim 90 is patentably distinguishable over the cited prior art. Dependent claims 91, 93-96, and 104-110 are also, therefore, patentably distinguishable over the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of the now-pending claims 83, 84, 86-91, and 93-110 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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